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History Rocks

Posted by ersmoot @ 2009-04-30 [REDACTED]

Tags: parkway chorale, berlin wall

Mood: contemplative

(U) A piece of history & the Parkway Chorale

(b) (6)

(U) The Parkway Chorale Spring Concert will commemorate the upcoming 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Concerts will be in the Friedman Auditorium on Thursday 14 May (1300) and Friday 15 May (1200). The program will be:

"Wie Schoen leuchtet der Morgenstern" - J.S. Bach

"Distant Land" - John Rutter

"Ode to Joy" - Ludwig van Beethoven

"The Writings on the Wall - a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Berlin Wall: 1989-1999"

- Gwyneth Walker

(U) 'Distant Land' was written in 1990, soon after the demolition of the Berlin Wall and the release of Nelson Mandela from prison. It was premiered in Carnegie Hall, New York. The final verse ends with "the walls will melt away, we'll come together on the day of freedom"

(U) The 'Ode to Joy' is the anthem of the European Union and the Council of Europe; both of which refer to it as the European Anthem due to the Council's intention that it represent Europe as a whole, rather than any organization. It is based on the final movement of Beethoven's 9th Symphony composed in 1823 and played on official occasions by both organizations.

(U) 'The Writings on the wall' was based on the book of the same name, by Terry Tillman. The book centers around a collection of photographs taken at the time of the fall of the Wall in 1989. As is typical of graffiti, the expressions range from noble affirmations of peace and freedom to personal and humorous markings. A more lengthy inscription, "The Fire of Freedom" closes the book. This is the inspiration for the piece that the chorale will sing. "Brothers and sisters of the wall. You have lit the flame."

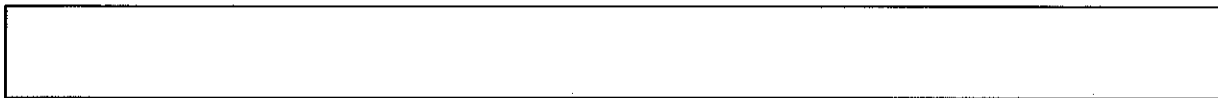
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(U) It is hard to believe that on 9 November of this year we'll be marking the 20th anniversary of the fall of the wall; in some ways it feels like yesterday (a sure sign I'm getting old). I have a great picture of a section of the wall at home; the graffiti says "No Europe without Berlin". [REDACTED]

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(U) Share your memories of the wall here, and I hope you will consider attending one of the Parkway Chorale concerts - I'm looking forward to it.

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